

Waltz, Daniel

From: Harris, Laurence
Sent: Friday, July 29, 2011 1:20 PM
To: Waltz, Daniel
Subject: FW: Draft Question for Frank Ricciardone confirmation hearing
Importance: High
Attachments: PM statement compilation.pdf; WASHINGTON-#5183796-v3-Cyprus_Ricciardone_Confirmation_Hearing_Question_8_2_11.DOCx

FYI

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From: Harris, Laurence
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2011 4:02 PM
To: 'maura_keefe@shaheen.senate.gov'
Subject: FW: Draft Question for Frank Ricciardone confirmation hearing
Importance: High

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This material is distributed by Patton Boggs LLP on behalf of the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus.

Additional information is available at the Department of Justice in Washington, DC

Hi Maura

I have enclosed a question for the Senate Confirmation Hearing of U.S. Ambassador-Designate Francis Ricciardone to Turkey. We hope Senator Sahaheen will consider asking the question at the Hearing

Also attached is a compilation of statements made by Turkey's Prime Minister (statements are referenced in our question) and may be helpful for the Senator or her staff to review in considering the question. Again, the hearing

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is next Tuesday (full details are below). Sorry for the short notice . Many thanks in advance!

Larry

Ambassadorial Nominations

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Full Committee Confirmation Hearing

Senate Foreign Relations Committee (Chairman Kerry, D-Mass.) will hold a confirmation hearing on pending ambassadorial nominations

Contact: Lowenstein, Frank - Majority Staff Director at 202-224-4651

Date Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2:30 p.m.

Place 419 Dirksen Bldg.

Nominations:

Francis Joseph Ricciardone Jr. to be ambassador to the Republic of Turkey

**Question for the Senate Confirmation Hearing of
U.S. Ambassador-Designate to the Republic of Turkey**

Francis Joseph Ricciardone, Jr.

August 2, 2010

Question:

July 20, 2011 marked the 37th anniversary of the Turkish invasion and continued occupation of Cyprus. The United States' policy toward Cyprus is to support a Cyprus settlement under the auspices of the United Nations, based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with a single sovereignty and international personality and a single citizenship, with its independence and territorial integrity safeguarded, and comprising two politically equal communities as provided by relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Prior to and during his recent illegal visit to the occupied part of Cyprus, Prime Minister Erdoğan of Turkey made statements to the press that contravene this U.S. policy toward Cyprus. Mr. Erdoğan stated that returning the territories of Varosha and Morphou would no longer be part of the discussion for reunification, nor would removal of the more than 40,000 Turkish troops on the island. Additionally, Mr. Erdoğan stated his support for Turkish Foreign Minister Davutoğlu's threat that "[i]f there is no solution until the EU Presidency of the Greek Cypriots, we will freeze our relations with the EU . . . Why recognize their Presidency when we consider sitting at the same table with them to be problematic?"

Such statements are provocative and outside the agreed upon basis for a solution and seriously undermine the negotiating process. Additionally, the Prime Minister's remarks directly contradict claims that Turkey supports the process to find a mutually agreed solution.

Do you believe that Mr. Erdoğan genuinely supports a just solution to the Cyprus issue based on a bi-zonal, bicomunal federation? As the U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, what will you do to promote U.S. policy toward Cyprus given that Mr. Erdoğan and his government continue to make statements that directly contravene our policy and are harmful to the current negotiations process?

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STATEMENTS BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF TURKEY

Source: Turkish Cypriot Newspapers

Kibris, Havadis and Yeni Düzen of 19 July 2011

According to the Turkish Cypriot press, the Prime Minister of Turkey had a meeting with Turkish Cypriot journalists prior to his arrival in Cyprus on 19 July 2011. He *inter alia* referred to the following issues:

- **Varosha**

Mr. Erdoğan stated that "the Greek Cypriots, who have not taken a step for the solution will wait for Varosha for a long time".

- **Morphou**

The Turkish Prime Minister said that similarly to Varosha having been kept out of the agenda, also Morphou would not be up for bargaining and asked the people of the area not to be concerned, adding that "Morfou is not in my book any more".

- **Withdrawal of troops**

Noting that the withdrawal of troops is also excluded from the agenda, since as Mr. Erdoğan stated, the Greek Cypriots had lost this chance by not accepting the Annan Plan in 2004. The withdrawal of troops should not be expected.

- **Overall Approach**

The Turkish Prime Minister stressed that the Cyprus problem has entered into a new stage and the Turkish side was no longer in the same position as with the Annan Plan of 2004. Noting that during his visit to Cyprus he will not make any surprise opening regarding the negotiation process on the Cyprus problem, Erdoğan said, "We have given enough concessions during the Annan Plan period. Now it is the turn of the Greek Cypriots."

He also stated that the Greek Cypriots have not taken positive steps and they are hindering the solution: "Let them not wait for something good from me as long as I am in duty".

Responding to a question on whether *recognition* of the Turkish occupied area of Cyprus is included in the new policy pursuits, Erdoğan said that this had been tried in the past and was not successful, but it could arise again. He stressed that in parallel to recognition, other solutions exist; they have had contacts with foreign countries on this issue and they also explain the realities of Cyprus mostly to Islamic countries.

- **Cyprus EU Presidency**

Erdoğan supported the statements made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmet Davutoğlu regarding the assumption of the EU Presidency by Cyprus. Recalling that the Greek Cypriots had found Davutoğlu's words "provocative", the Turkish Prime Minister stated that his Minister of Foreign Affairs speaks in a pragmatist way and not provocatively, adding that,

If there is no solution until the EU Presidency of the Greek Cypriots, we will freeze our relations with the EU. We will become spectators for a period of six months. Why recognize their Presidency when we consider sitting at the same table with them to be problematic?

Erdoğan asked that no one should expect that Turkey enters into consultations with a country which they do not recognize.

- **Obligations of Turkey vis-à-vis EU and member states**

The Turkish Prime Minister noted that they do not consider making an opening on the issue of the ports. Only if this is made simultaneously with the opening of ports in the occupied areas of Cyprus could this be considered. Noting that the Turkish ports could be opened if a step is made at the same time, Erdoğan said that this gesture should not be expected from Turkey. Recalling that the EU countries have not kept their promises, Erdoğan stated that the embargoes implemented on the Turkish occupied area of Cyprus are not humane:

Starting from Malta, they recognized small places in African countries, but there is an inhuman stance against the Turkish Cypriots. The common aspects with the countries they have recognized are their common religion and culture. They could easily decide for them, but they do not exhibit the same easiness when it comes to the Turkish Cypriots.